

belongs to Ministers, and not to officials. After all, it is the Minister involved who bears the ultimate responsibility for determining policy, and it is up to him to make public announcements in this area. The public servants are there to carry out such policy, and to

advise the Minister, as best they can, of all factors which must be weighed before a policy is determined. Only then can we strike a healthy balance between responsibility and responsiveness.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Histology of the Fowl. R. D. Hodges. Published by Academic Press, London. 1974. 648 pages. Price \$35.00.

A long awaited and much needed text on Histology of the Fowl has finally made its appearance. Anatomists, pathologists and other workers in the poultry area have been resorting to their own, very often incomplete reprint files, for information on the histology of many of the less frequently studied tissues of the domestic fowl. This text has brought together this information in a well written, comprehensive and well illustrated single volume. The author has included an extensive bibliography along with his own investigations and illus-

trations.

The author appears to have attempted to cover the more obscure systems, to the ultimate advantage of the users, devoting 64 pages to detailed descriptions of the endocrine glands. However, three paragraphs hardly seem sufficient to cover the histological structure of the air sacs.

The text describes histology of the fowl on a systems basis with 257 illustrations, including, when available, ultra-structural descriptions of some tissues.

The text is a valuable addition to the library of anyone concerned with the anatomy, physiology or pathology of the domestic fowl. *H. C. Carlson.*

Veterinarmedizinische Pathogenetik (Veterinary Pathogenetics). E. Wiesner and S. Wille. Published by VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, East Germany. 1974. 178 pages. Price 83,-M.

This textbook is one of the few comprehensive works on the pathogenetics of domestic animals and it is therefore unfortunate that it is published in the German language, a fact which will limit its widespread use in English speaking countries.

The book is divided into two sections. Section I, General Pathogenetics, introduces the reader to the fundamentals of genetical aberrations. It outlines the area with which pathogenetics is involved and deals with such topics as the etiology of prenatal and postnatal congenital defects, the spread of inherited abnormalities in animal populations, and the diagnosis and prevention methods of such abnormalities. Numerous diagrams and form-

ulas illustrate both the phenotypic and genotypic aspects of genetic anomalies, although some are perhaps too detailed for the uninitiated reader and are better suited for the specialist or researcher.

Section II, Specific Pathogenetics, covers genetical anomalies associated with the various domestic animal species, using the systems approach. Although small animals are covered, conditions in cattle, swine and horses dominate the book. The text is aided by many illustrations, some in colour. In some cases, for example Atrophic Rhinitis in Swine, the inheritability of the disease is somewhat overemphasized, and differs from the North American belief that this disease has primarily an infectious etiology. Throughout the entire book, the text is heavily supported with references, making it a very comprehensive work. It should be a valuable asset to the bookshelves of veterinary students, research workers and practitioners alike. *A. C. Brandenburg.*